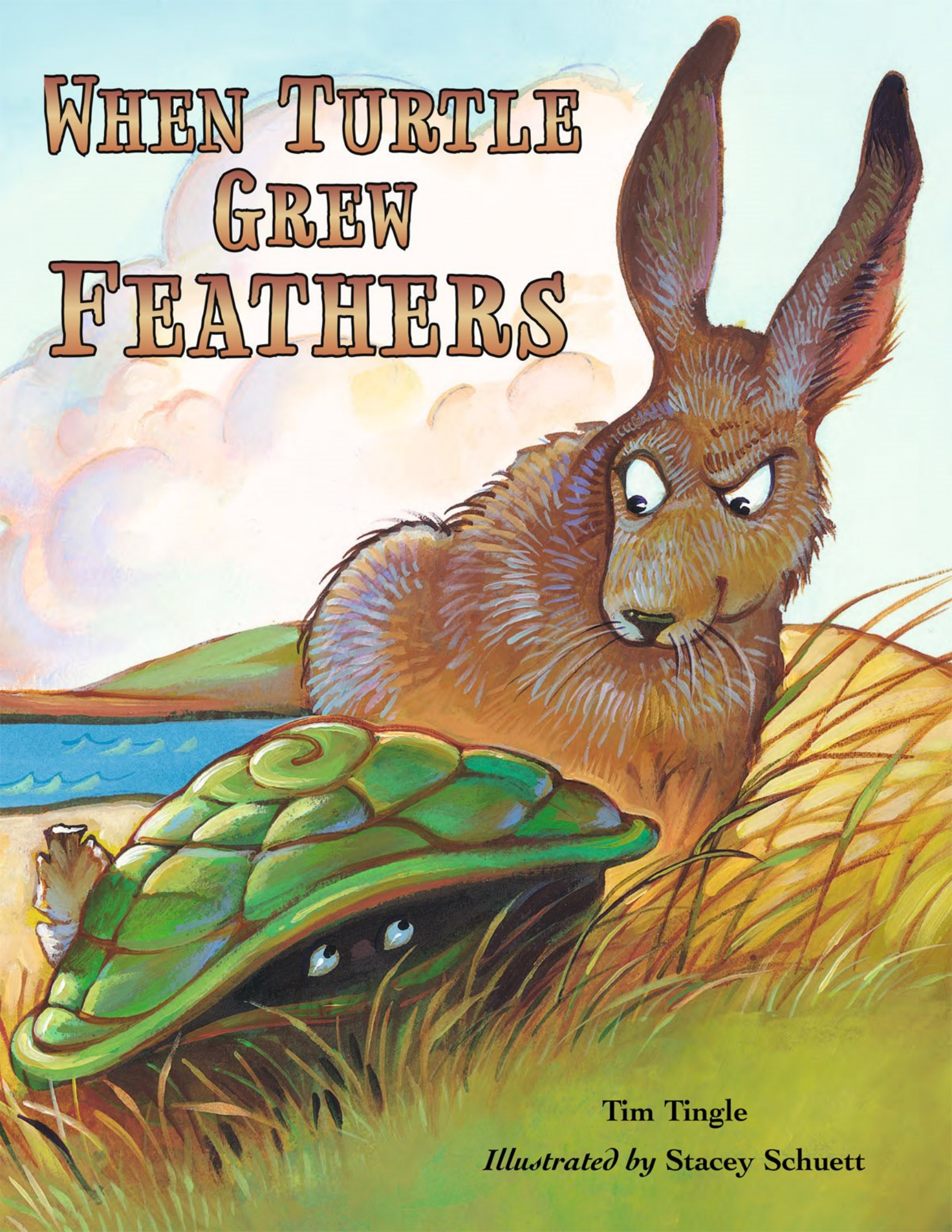


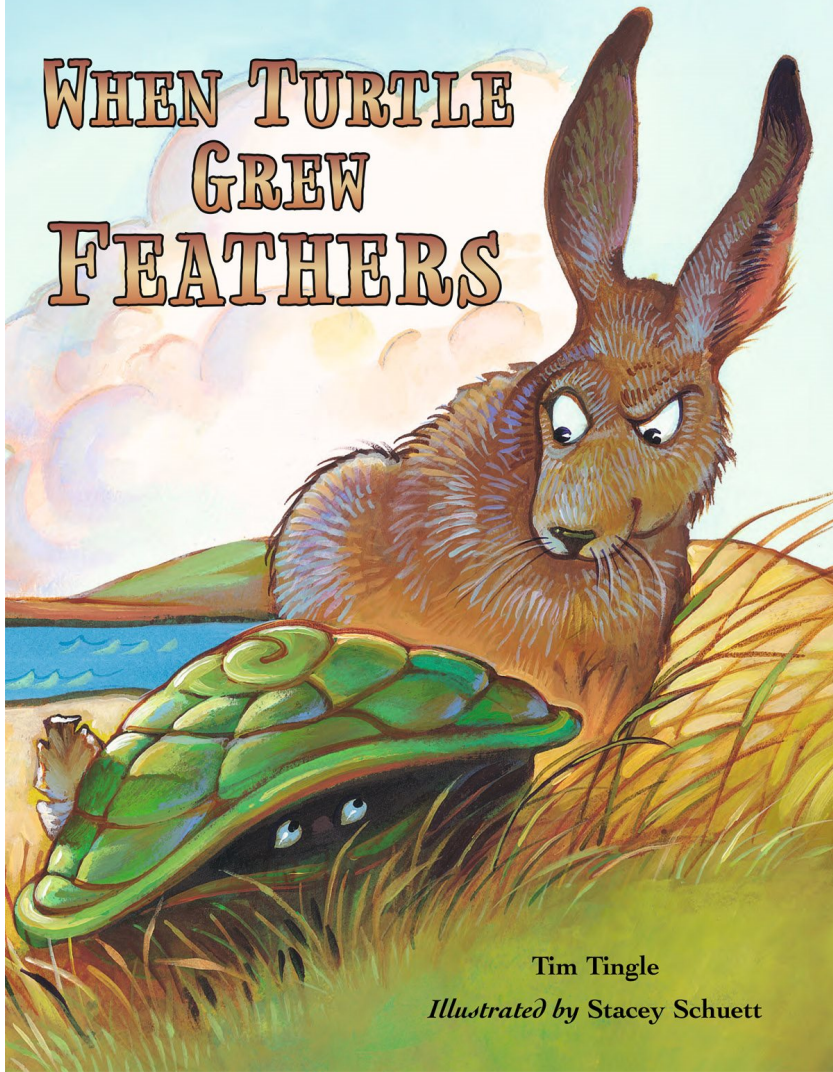
WHEN TURTLE GREW FEATHERS



Tim Tingle

Illustrated by Stacey Schuett

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A Folktale from the Choctaw Nation

WHEN TURTLE GREW FEATHERS

Tim Tingle

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TRIANGLE
INTERACTIVE



To Eagan Elise Tingle,

first granddaughter

-77

For Ian and Clare, who both make

surprising flights of their own.

-88



Most everybody knows about the race between Turtle and Rabbit. But the Choctaw people tell the story differently. They say that the reason Rabbit couldn't outrun Turtle was that he wasn't racing a turtle at all. He only thought he was. It all took place on the day when Turtle grew feathers.



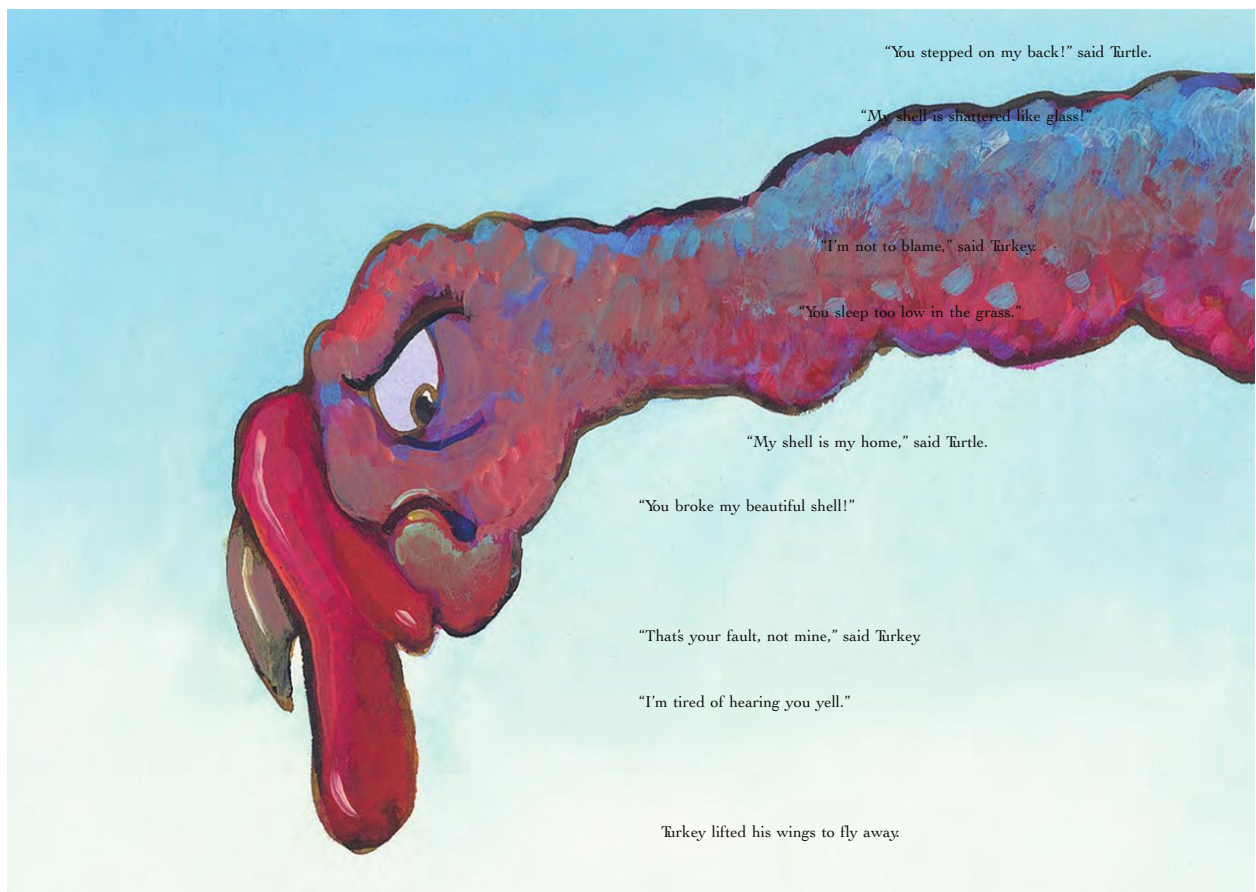


Turkey was walking in the grass by the lake.

He was stretching his long skinny neck, not
watching where his feet fell.



Currrr-rack! Currrr-r





"Wait!" cried broken-shelled Turtle.

"Let's call a truce and not fight."

Turkey smiled and nodded.

"Let's do what we know to be right."

Just then an army of ants paraded by.

"Friends," said Turkey, "help us mend this shell.

Then I'll help you gather your dinner till your

little bellies swell."

So the ants went to work. With threads of silk from

the cornfield, they sewed Turtle's shell together







About that time, five Little Bitty Turtles came

huffing and puffing and running down the path.

"Everybody hide!" the Little Bitty Turtles cried.

"What is it?" asked Turtle, his eyes opened wide.

"Here comes Rabbit," said the Little Bitty Five.

"Rabbit wants to race, and he won't be denied."





"How about you, Turtle? How about a little race?"

Turkey lay hidden in Turtle's shell and didn't say a word.

Rabbit moved closer

"I said, how about you, Turtle? How about a little race?"

Finally, from where he hid in the grass, Turtle yelled,

"Get it on!"













Turkey poked his head out and looked around. Rabbit
had never seen a turtle like that before! While he watched,
that neck kept growing, and growing, and *growing*!
Rabbit was beginning to get a little worried.



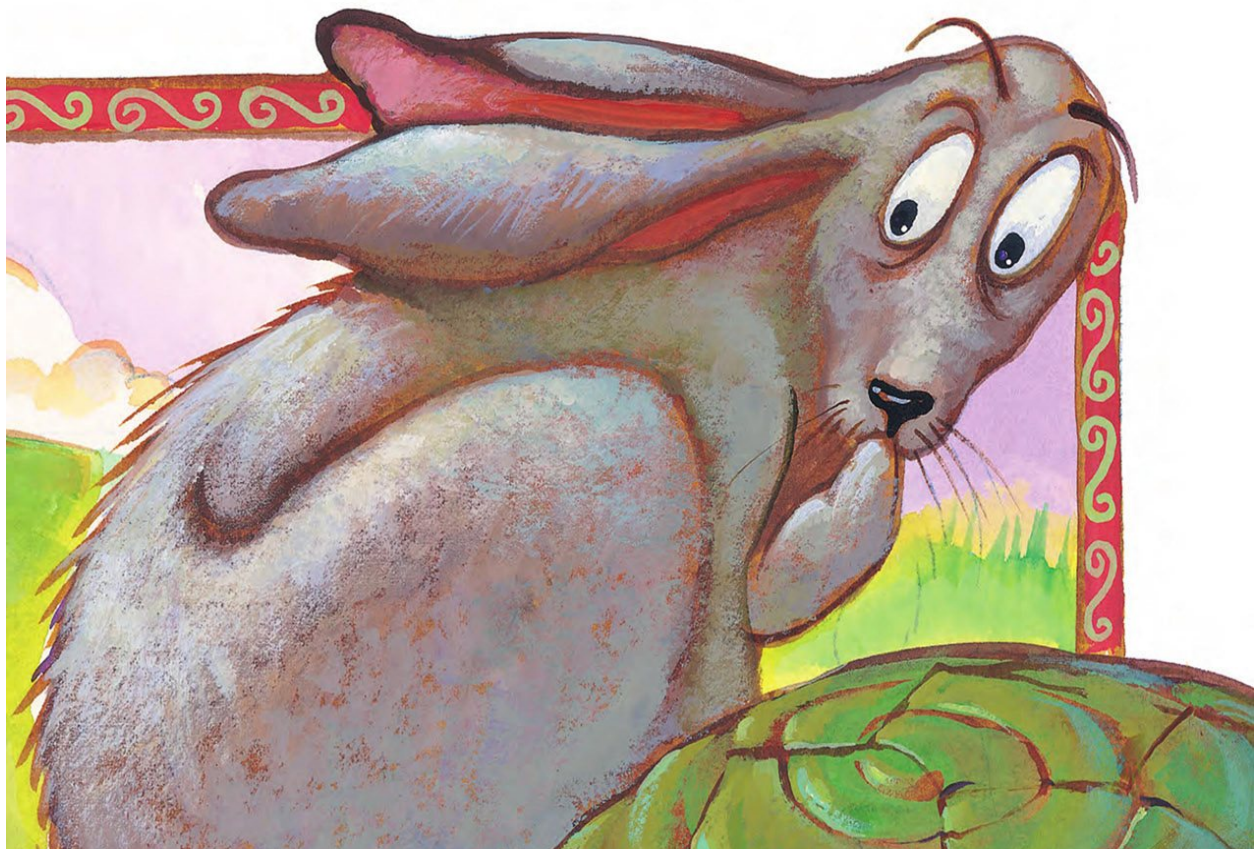


"On your mark," said Rabbit.

Long, skinny legs grew out of the turtle shell.

Rabbit couldn't believe what he was seeing.

"G-g-g-get set," said Rabbit.





But the strangest thing was yet to come.

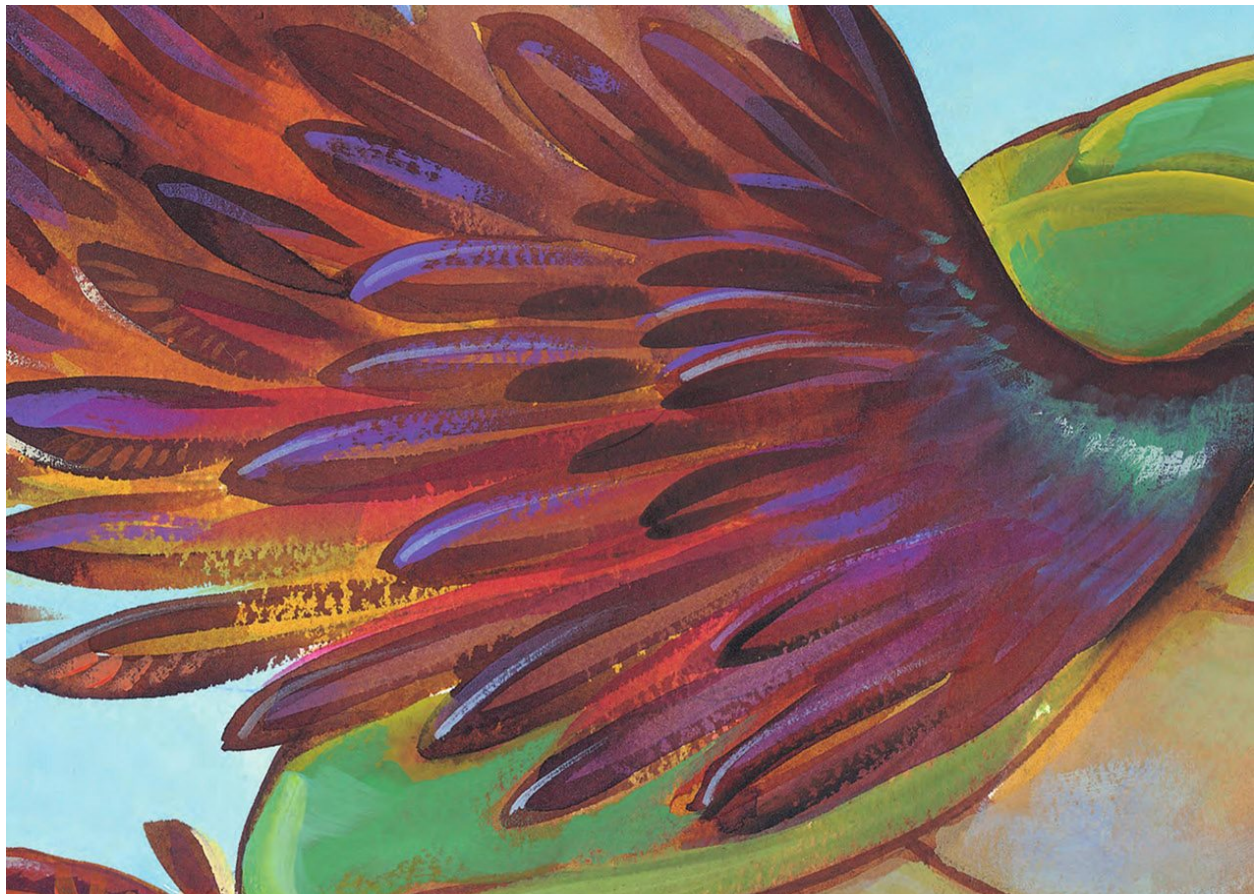
All of a sudden, wings popped out of the
turtle shell—long, slow-flapping wings!

Rabbit was downright scared by now.

He stuttered. He stammered. He finally
shouted,

“G-g-g-g-g-go!”





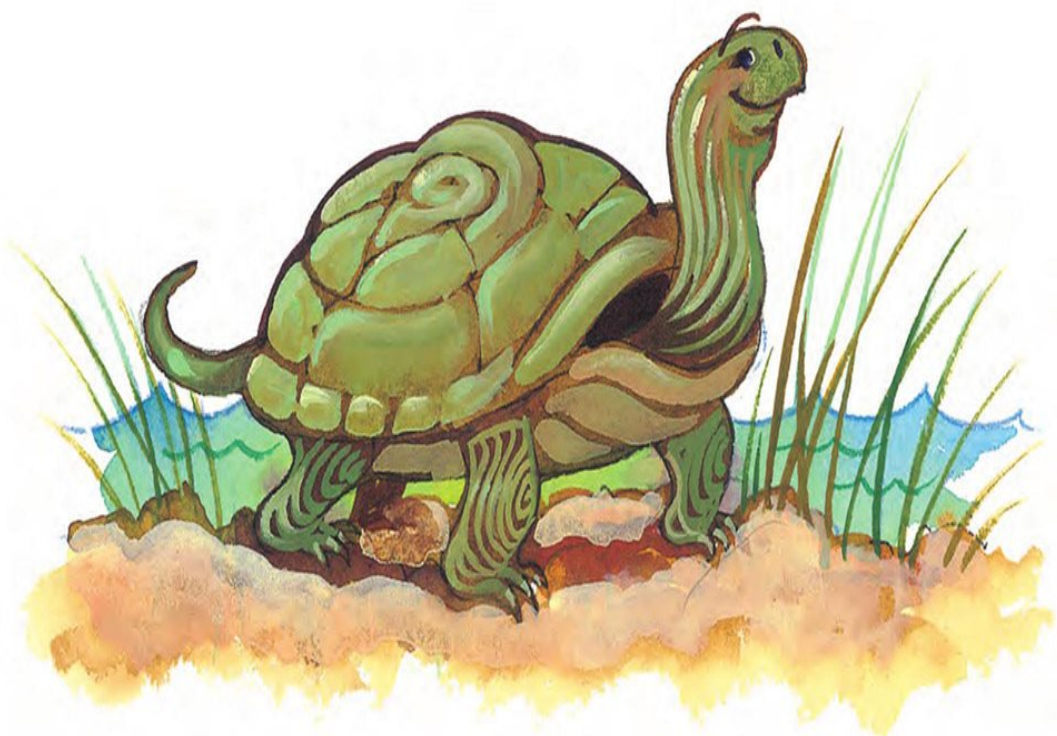












That's the way the Choctaws tell the story. It all took

place, they say, on the day when Turtle grew feathers.

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